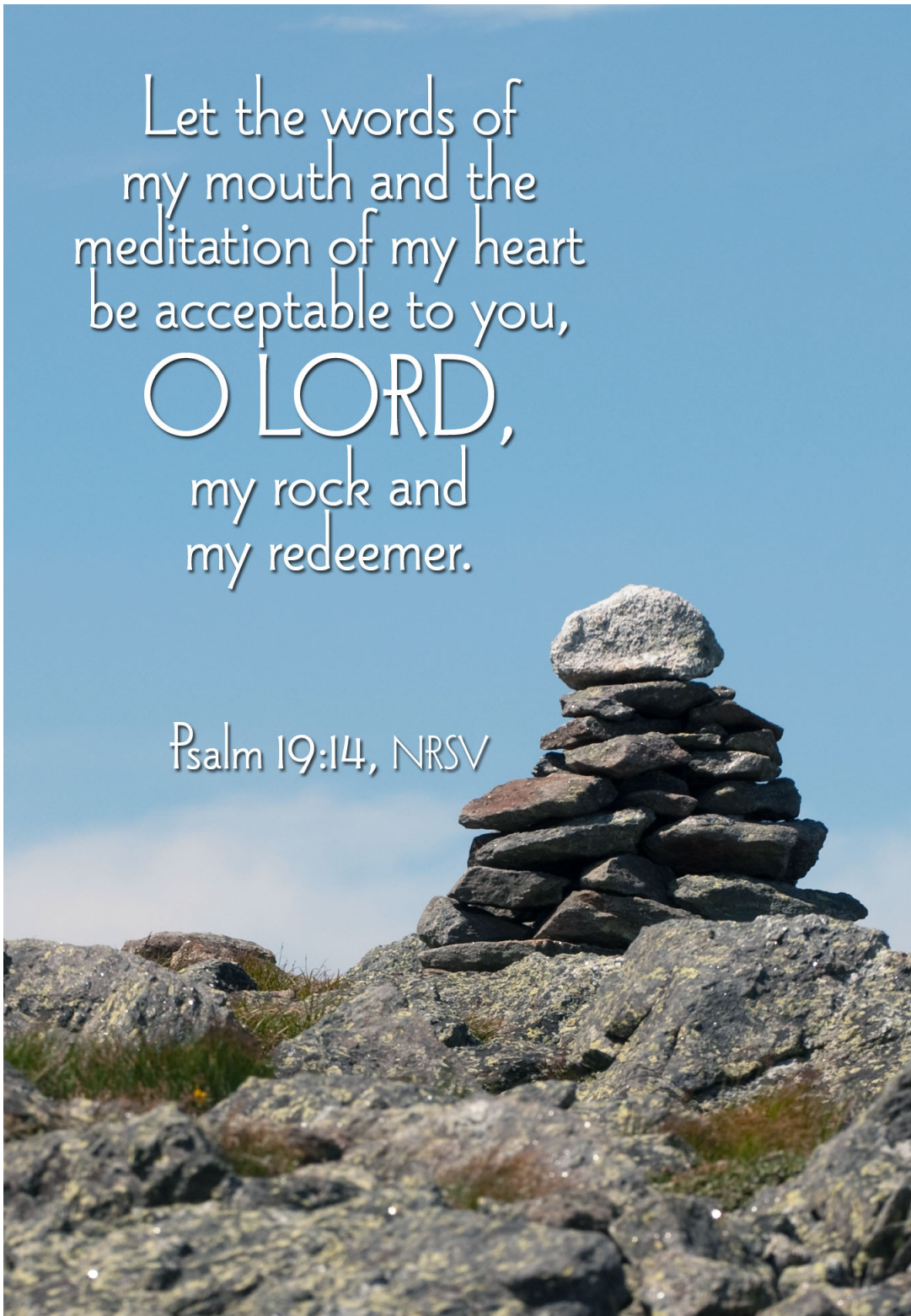


Let the words of
my mouth and the
meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,

O LORD,
my rock and
my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14, NRSV



**United Church of Christ
Norwich, New York**



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Norwich, New York 13815**



An Open and Affirming Church

October 8, 2023

10:00 a.m

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Walk Worthy of the Lord

by Lani Smith

WELCOME

(Please sign the attendance pad found in the pew.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are created in the image of God.

ALL: We are commanded to love God and one another.

ONE: We are required to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

ALL: We are called to follow Jesus.

ONE: In this time of worship, may we remember God's intention for us,

ALL: And may we remember Christ's call upon us, and the Spirit's movement in us.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

Prayer of Invocation by Thomas Sutcliffe

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PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder
(Tune: IN BABILONE)

#558

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(Children are welcome to stay in the front pew until after the choir anthem.)

CHOIR ANTHEM *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

setting by David Kidwell
words by Isaac Watts
Tune: ELLACOMBE

(Children in K-8 are invited to go upstairs to Sunday School at this time.)

PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

ONE: May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us lift our voices in song.

SUNG RESPONSE

Peace

by Judy A. Rose

Peace be the song that we will sing.

Peace be the joy, our spirits ring.

Peace be the love that sets us free,

peace for all, peace for you and me.

Peace, peace, peace, peace. Peace be to you in all you do.

Peace, peace, peace, peace. Peace be to you in all you do.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

DISCIPLESHIP PLEDGE (An Offertory Prayer)

ONE: We love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

ALL: We pledge our whole selves to God.

ONE: We love our neighbors as ourselves.

ALL: We pledge to do justice as Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation.

ONE: We love one another as Jesus loves us.

ALL: We pledge to be and become Christ's Beloved Community in our life together.

ONE: We make disciples by teaching and modeling how to follow Jesus' Way of Love.

ALL: We pledge to be Jesus' disciples sharing Jesus' Way of Love in the way we live our lives and practice our faith.

Offering plates are located at both Nave doors for your convenience.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 19

Pew Bible NT p. 550

Matthew 21: 33-46

Pew Bible NT p. 24

REFLECTION *Channeling Colbert*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Day by Day*

by Oscar Ahnfeldt

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

ONE: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,

ALL: God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

ONE: You call the worlds into being,

ALL: create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

ONE: You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

ALL: You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

ONE: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot,

ALL: conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

ONE: You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,

ALL: creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

ONE: You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others,

ALL: to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

ONE: You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,

ALL: courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

ONE: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN** *In All Our Living* #499
(Tune: PUES SI VIVIMOS)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr*
by Johann Gottfried Walther

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY CARE is available for children up to the age of five beginning at 9:00am - up the stairs at the front of the building.

PASTOR JASON is away from Norwich through October 16. During that time, emergency pastoral care will be available from Rev. Mary Rublee of Broad Street United Methodist Church at 607-371-5077, and Rev. Laura Wade of Christ Lutheran Church (except 10/6-10/9) at 607-227-1901.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Monday for Indigenous Peoples Day. The office will also be closed on Thursday and Friday this week, because Cheri will be away.

SEEKING SINGERS FOR ADVENT CANTATA - Rehearsals for our Advent Cantata, *Peace* by Joel Raney will begin on Sunday October 29th. Details and a registration link can be found on the church homepage or call the church office. Participants from area churches and the Norwich community are encouraged to join us. The performance will be held Sunday afternoon December 17th.

LET'S TALK RACE - Broad Street United Methodist Church, Christ Lutheran Church, and the United Church of Christ First Congregational of Norwich invite you to join us for "**Let's Talk Race**," an amazing seven-week journey where we create brave space and speak truthfully about racism in our nation. "Let's Talk Race" will take place on seven "almost consecutive" Tuesdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Founders Room at the United Church of Christ, located at 11 West Main Street in downtown Norwich. **The dates are as follows: October 17 & 24, November 7, 14, & 28, December 5 & 12.** Presenting and facilitating the program is Rev. Gary Smith, Founding Director of the Center for Racial Justice and Racial Justice Consultant for the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ.

THE PLACE WILL BE OFFERING A FREE AMERICAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER TRAINING course for youth aged 11 - 16 on November 4th (8:30am-5pm). This class is FREE to Chenango County youth through the generous contribution of an anonymous donor. The goal of this course is to provide youth who are planning to babysit with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. This training will help participants to develop leadership skills, learn how to develop a babysitting business, and learn about basic childcare and basic first aid. For additional information or to preregister, please contact The Place at 607-336-9696.

WE ARE STILL WORKING to provide a safe and clean environment for worship and other activities. You can read our full COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS posted on the bulletin board and on our website.

CALENDAR

The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30pm & Fridays at 1:30pm

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School for K-8 - after the Children's Moment
11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room
11:30am Handbell Choir Rehearsal, upstairs

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 - Indigenous Peoples' Day

Church Office Closed

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
10:00am Knitting, kitchen
3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen
5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
6:00pm D. Burch, Nave
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Church Office Closed

1:00pm Piecemakers Meeting, Founders' Room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Church Office Closed

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

4:00pm Free 2B Me Youth Group for grades 5-12, upstairs

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School for K-8 - after the Children's Moment
11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room

October 8, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Bob Oehme, Donna Moren

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney, Jennifer Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Usher: Peter Williams

Fellowship Hour: Pat Burke

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 10/15

Usher:

Liturgist: Michael Moren, Ed Tucker

Flowers:

Coffee Hour:

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - office@uccnorwichny.org - www.uccnorwichny.org

MINISTERS: All the People

PASTOR AND TEACHER: Rev. Jason Boyd

MODERATOR: Pete Williams

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES: Ericka Tyler

PARISH COORDINATOR: Cheri Oakley

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mallozzi

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Temporarily by appointment only.

